POL 23-9 GREECE

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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INFO RUDTCR/AMEMBASSY LONDON
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RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUQMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1533

NATUS INFO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO[illegible] MAY 1982
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE
RDS[illegible] EXEMPTION
IS ACTN.
ENDO[illegible]
RELEASE [illegible]
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. ALTHOUGH PIO BRIEFING OF PRESS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL LATER IN AFTERNOON, FIRST LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO GREEK COUP HAS ALREADY APPEARED IN FAR-LEFT TELEFTEA ORA (WHICH PARTIALLY FINANCED BY UAR AND PRO-ANDREAS PAPANDREOU). IN HEADLINE WHICH COVERS TWO-THIRDS FRONT PAGE, PAPER CHARACTERIZES COUP IN GREECE AS ROYAL DICTATORSHIP AND FASCISM. PICTURE OF GEORGE

PAGE 2 RUQVHN 1533 C O N F I D E N T I A L
PAPANDREOU AND AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF ANDREAS ALSO APPEAR ON FRONT PAGE. TEXT OF LEAD ARTICLE CONSISTS OF ANNOUNCEMENTS BROADCAST BY ARMED FORCES RADIO GREECE AND WIRE SERVICE REPORTS PLUS FOLLOWING COMMENT: AS IS KNOWN, ELECTIONS WERE DUE MAY 28. MILITARY COUP CAME AFTER IT CLEAR THAT GEORGE PAPANDREOU WOULD WIN ELECTIONS. CU LEADER HAS REPEATEDLY WARNED RECENTLY THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE DICTATORSHIP WOULD BE ROYAL "DEVIATION" AND COUP. AND THE PEOPLE WILL RESPOND WITH REVOLUTION. POLITICAL OBSERVERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP ANXIETY FOR EFFECT ON CYPRUS PROBLEM. OUR PEOPLE, IT IS ADDED, MUST BE ALERT AND MUST REACT WITH ALL MEANS AGAINST ROYAL COUP. AS WELL AS REACTION AGAINST DICTATORSHIP. IN GREECE THERE MUST BE MANIFESTATION ON PART OF CYPRUS GOVERNMENT WITHOUT DELAY OR DOUBT. EXPEDIENCY IN PRESENT SITUATION WOULD BE TREASON AGAINST INDOMINABLE GREEK PEOPLE, AGAINST COUNTRY WHERE DEMOCRACY BORN, AGAINST CYPRIOT PEOPLE AND AGAINST HOLY NATIONAL CAUSE OF CYPRUS."

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2. WHILE TELEFTEA ORA STATES THAT BOTH PAPANDREOUS AND "OTHER DEMOCRATIC FIGURES" OPPOSED TO "DEVIATION" HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, NO MENTION MADE OF DETENTION KANNELLOPOULOS OR ANY OTHER RIGHT-WING PERSONALITY.

GP-3. BELCHER
BT

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